

PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of January 9, 2003

Present: Doug Bordas, member Ida Edmunds, member
John Goetz, member Larry Jose, member
Orestes Kaltsounis, member Tom Krent, member
Meaghan Kovacs, member Deanna Ned, student rep.
Janice Zikakis, member Stuart Alderman, staff
Jeff Biegler, staff

Absent: Kathleen Fejes, Jeff Stewart, Carol K. Anderson.

Visitors: Chuck Barnes, Amy Taylor, Natalie German

A motion by Tom Krent, supported by John Goetz, that the minutes from October 10, 2002 be approved as submitted.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

New Business

A. **Amy Meeker-Taylor** is the Assistant Naturalist at the Nature Center. Among her duties she teaches the school programs, runs the Maple Syrup rent-a-tap, cataloging animals and trail work. The deer population was discussed and how it has become too large for the vegetation to support it.

B. **2003-2004 Budget** - Currently, staff is working on the budget for the next fiscal year. We are not hiring any new staff and there will be no new major capital projects. Park development of the new parcels will be proposed.

C. **Joint Meeting** - A joint meeting of the Senior Advisory Board and the Advisory Commission for Disabilities met in December and discussed some areas of concern regarding the Community Center. Some items of concern will be resolved when construction is complete and staff is working on resolution to items not related to construction.

D. **Recreation Program Fees Policy** - Some City Council members want the costs of all programming to be paid by user fees. Currently, we do not charge indirect costs in our fees to participants. Many senior programs do not charge any fees to participants when there is a cost for running the programs. Walsh College is partnering with the Parks and Recreation department to do a study regarding this issue. A list is being developed of the free services provided by this department.

E. **Organizational Positives** - Accomplishments for our department for 2002 were reviewed.

OLD BUSINESS

A. **Community Center** - The dedication for Phase II will be on February 26, 2003 at 4 p.m. There will be a grand opening for the general public on March 8, 2003 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

B. **Aquatic Center** - The year-end report was completed by Ann Blizzard. The fee structure will be reviewed at next months meeting.

C. **Nelson Drain Cricket Field** - The agreement with the Oakland County Drain Commission has been signed and development will begin in this area for a cricket field. It remains a functioning drain and will, at times, be unplayable during the rainy season.

D. **Park Development** - M. C. Smith and Associates have been awarded the bid for park development. They will be assessing the needs of the community and draw up some concept plans.

Member Comments - Janice Zikakis asked about the grass being cut so short. Jeff Biegler explained that staff and two different contractors cut the grass. It is cut at 2.5 to 3 inches, which is the industry standard.

Staff Reports

Recreation Report - In the upcoming months you will receive information on Section 1 range fees. The driving range is targeted to open in late summer. The tour of the golf course will be scheduled for this spring.

The Wednesday Memo will be included in the monthly Park Board packet. This is an internal memo regarding what is happening in our department.

A motion by Tom Krent, supported by Doug Bordas, that the February meeting be moved to the **first** Thursday, February 6, 2003.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

Parks Report - The Tree Ordinance has been revised and the City Attorney is reviewing it now. It will then be presented to the Planning Commission and City Council for approval.

The tree crew is busy pruning Right of Way trees and are currently working on their third section for this season. A lot of pruning is getting done due to the nice weather and the crew is not plowing snow. Approximately 3200 trees are pruned per winter and we are looking at meeting or exceeding that number this year.

A motion by Orestes Kaltsounis, supported by Doug Bordas, that absent members be excused.

Ayes: All

Nays: None

MOTION CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Williams